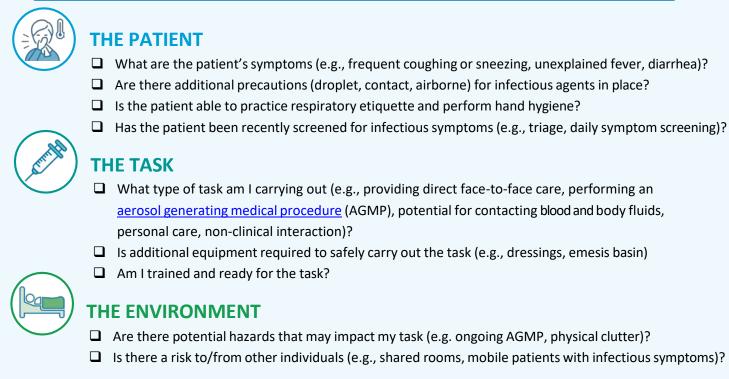
Point-of-Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

The PCRA is a component of routine practice which shall be conducted before every patient/client/resident (hereafter 'patient') interaction by a healthcare worker (HCW) to assess the likelihood of exposing themselves and/or others to infectious agents. This assessment informs the selection of appropriate actions and additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to minimize the risk of exposure in addition to any Infection Prevention and Control recommendations already in place. This is a general tool, and risk assessments may vary from person to person. The questions and actions may need to be adapted for specific health care settings and roles.



Before each patient interaction, a healthcare worker must assess the following:



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Choose appropriate actions and PPE including the following:

Hand hygiene (e.g., before donning and after removing PPE items, as per the 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene) Respiratory etiquette (e.g., offer the patient a medical mask, support the patient to use tissues/their elbow to cover coughs)
Implement additional precautions if required (e.g., droplet and contact precautions for Viral Respiratory Illness)
Environmental and equipment cleaning and disinfection (e.g., clean & disinfect environmental surfaces and reusable equipment after each use)
Patient placement (e.g., prioritize patients with risks for infectious agents to single rooms where possible)
Select PPE items based on required additional precautions and your PCRA - outlined on the following
page.



Point-of-Care-Risk Assessment (PCRA)

Selecting PPE

REQUIRED: Wear a medical mask if provincial medical masking for healthcare settings policy is in effect. **REQUIRED:** If additional precautions (i.e., contact, droplet, or airborne) are in place, put on all required PPE

THEN: Add PPE items to those required based on your PCRA, for example:

Could my hands be exposed to blood, body fluids or contaminated items?

Could my clothing or skin come into contact with blood or body fluids, including splashes/sprays?

Could my eyes or face be splashed/sprayed with blood or body fluids? Am I within 2 meters of a coughing or vomiting patient? Is there a risk of airborne transmission of infectious agents, either from specific pathogens (e.g., TB/measles) or procedures (e.g., AGMP on a patient with VRI)?

Yes



Wear

gown

Yes

Yes







Wear facial protection (medical mask & eye protection or face shield)



Wear N95 respirator or equivalent*

*HCW must be fit-tested and shall perform a seal check prior to use. Follow additional measures outlined in VCH guidelines to minimize risks.

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Incorporating PCRA & PPE choices in the care of patients with Viral Respiratory Illness (VRI):

HCW PPE requirements for care of ALL patients

Use of medical masks in healthcare settings as outlined in the provincial policy on Mask Use in Healthcare Facilities (when policy in effect)

Additional HCW PPE requirements for care of patients with suspected or confirmed VRI

- As a minimum, droplet and contact precautions must be implemented for all patient care
- ☐ If a HCW determines that a patient interaction presents an elevated risk of VRI transmission on their individual PCRA, additional PPE (e.g., N95 respirators) are accessible
- ☐ Airborne, droplet, and contact precautions must be implemented when performing AGMPs on these patients

